

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of August 1, 2005**

- 1. Speak to the County Council:** The Montgomery County Council has announced two opportunities to speak to the Council. On Tuesday, September 13 at 7:30 in the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, the Council will hold a Public Hearing on County Budget Priorities. To sign up to testify, call 240-777-7931. On Friday, September 16, 1:15 pm, there will be a Town Hall Meeting for Seniors. It will be held at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive in Wheaton. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call 240-777-7939. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 2. Ice Cream Party!** Don't forget the Montgomery College community ice cream party on Tuesday, August 9 from 6-8 pm on the Takoma Park Campus' Quad. Call Jennie Wells at 301-563-3904 for more info. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 3. Approval of Takoma-Piney Branch Park Facility Plan (Wards 4 and 1):** On Thursday, the Planning Board approved the concept plan to upgrade the park that runs between Piney Branch Elementary School and Takoma Park Middle School and includes Ed Wilhelm Field. Determination of what year the engineering drawings and renovation takes place will occur during the discussions of the FY07-12 Capital Improvement Program later in the year. A skatepark was approved for the area of the tennis courts, but details on this aspect will need further discussion. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 4. Stories Around the World:** Enthusiastic audiences of children and adults attended a double program of stories followed by a workshop at the Library on Saturday July 30. Diane Maclin and Arianna Ross told stories from a rich variety of cultures around the world. Afterwards they presented a workshop designed to equip parents and educators with skills to make storytelling more meaningful and rewarding to audiences. Their program, part of the Library's summer reading celebration, was funded by a grant from the Washington Redskins through the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. It was featured on the front page of the "Gazette" on August 3rd. *(Library)*
- 5. Farewell Reception:** On August 4 Ellen and Jillian attended a farewell reception for Harriet Henderson, Director of Montgomery County Public Libraries, who has accepted a directorship in Richmond. Ms. Henderson has been a gracious and helpful colleague in past negotiations between Montgomery County and Takoma Park on Library issues. *(Library)*

6. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6): Community Organizers Mario Cristaldo and Rozanne Look conducted two meetings with the residents of Hampshire Towers this past week to explain tenant rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. The 448 unit property is being sold and currently there is a third party contract with Tenacity 7333 New Hampshire LLC. Tenant turnout was good, with approximately 100 residents attending the meetings. A vote of interest in forming a Tenant Association took place, however as 1/3 of the tenants would need to state their interest in the association, there is currently a campaign by the tenants to seek more members. Once recognized by the City and County as a Tenants Association, the group will look into all the options available to them. At both meetings, there was a representative from the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, who advised the tenants that the County is also looking at the possibility of exercising their right to purchase. Deadline for the Tenant Association to express their interest in purchase is August 26, 2005. *(Housing & Community Development)*

7. Affordable Housing-Condo Conversions (All Wards): Efforts to review condo conversion legislation is underway as the Council has directed staff to look at options for protecting tenants from being displaced and losing affordable housing units. Staff met with County representatives this week to discuss the issues. Additionally, there is a tenant group that has taken the lead in an effort to propose a moratorium on condo conversions until changes in the Maryland Condominium Act can be enacted to give better protection to tenants living in buildings that are being converted. Patricia Powell, a resident of Takoma Park is the lead organizer in this effort. *(Housing & Community Development)*

8. Preventive Maintenance of City Roads: The Public Works Department installed permanent asphalt patches, using in-house expertise and labor, on the following streets: Maple Ave (at Sligo Creek Parkway), Trescott, Lincoln and Jefferson Avenues. Each time the City uses in-house labor and expertise to install these patches there is a savings of \$1000 to \$1500 that would have been paid to a contractor for this work. Since July 1, 2005, City crews have installed more than 20 such patches. These patches can significantly extend the lives of the associated roads. It should be noted that the crack filling phase of the Preventive Maintenance Program will commence on September 1, 2005. *(Public Works)*

9. Street Restoration (Wards 1 & 6): The concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk replacement and backfilling on Takoma Avenue is expected to be completed by Monday. Also the inlet and speed table on Takoma Avenue is also expected to be completed by early next week. Work is expected to begin next week on Lockney Avenue between Anne St. and Merrimac Drive. The work will begin with concrete curb and gutter replacement. *(Public Works)*

10. 7133 Carroll Avenue Renovation: The renovation of the house is underway. Much of the interior demolition has begun. The contractor, C & P Restoration, is preparing the footers for the porch replacement. Due to the discovery of an excavated room under the porch, the footer depth has had to be extended significantly and some additional drainage measures are required at an additional cost of \$7,900. The City has budgeted 10% for contingency (\$23,400) for such unforeseen circumstances. Ward 1 *(Public Works)*

11. Firestation Hearing: Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission has set the date of September 29 for the first Mandatory Referral hearing for the Firestation Project. *(Public Works)*

12. Enforcement Action (All Wards): In traffic enforcement this week, stops occurred on secondary streets, rather than the major roadways of New Hampshire, University and Piney Branch. Among those covered were Erskine, Jackson, Wildwood, Carroll, Laurel, Walnut, Kirklynn, Greenwood, Maple, Lockney, Merwood, Houston, Roanoke, Flower and Takoma. Most traffic stops ended with citations or warnings being written. Among arrests this week were two for drug possession, one for shoplifting and one for an outstanding warrant. *(Police)*

13. National Night Out: Members of the COP Team, investigative units, and on-duty patrol squads joined residents, the Chief, and Command staff at National Night Out events. Two events were held: at Hampshire Tower and at the VFW Post (Victor Sector) with fire and emergency medical service personnel attending both. Entertainment at the VFW was provided gratis by a local band. *(Police)*